

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 5 to label the sheet containing parts C and D as Figure 5 and to label the sheet containing parts E and F as Figure 5. The attached drawing sheets also include changes to Figure 7 to label the sheet containing part B as Figure 7.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS**I. Status of Claims**

Claims 1 and 30-40 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-29 were previously canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify claim language. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification as filed, in particular, in the last paragraph of page 16.

Claim 1 has been further amended to clarify antecedent basis of the term “autoimmune or chronic inflammatory disease.”

Claim 1 has been further amended to correct the spelling of “autoimmune.”

No new matter has been added by these amendments and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

II. Priority Claims

The Examiner has determined that the instant application is a Continuation Application of Serial No. 10/131,827, which is a Continuation-In-Part Application of Serial No. 10/006,290, which in turn relies on Serial No. 60/296,764. As neither Serial No. 10/006,290 nor Serial No. 60/296,764 is claimed for priority in the instant application, the Examiner requests that Applicants claim priority.

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the mistake in the priority claim. However, Applicants submit that the claims as currently amended to be directed to SEQ ID NO: 739, are fully supported by the disclosures of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/131,827 and U.S. Application Serial No. 10/006,290 but not U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/296,764. Applicants have amended the specification to contain an updated priority claim reflecting this change. A Supplemental Application Data Sheet containing the amended priority information is filed with this response. In spite of the currently amended priority claim, Applicants assert that

further filed continuing applications claiming priority to the instant application may be entitled to the benefit to the entire priority chain, including U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/296,764.

III. Objections to Drawings

The drawings are objected to for the following reasons:

- (a) The sheet on which Figures 5C and 5D appear is not labeled as a part of Figure 5.
- (b) The sheet on which Figures 5E and 5F appear is not labeled as a part of Figure 5.
- (c) The sheet on which Figure 7B appears is not labeled as a part of Figure 7.

To address these objections, Applicants have submitted replacement sheets for Figure 5C and D and Figure 5E and F labeled appropriately with Figure 5 at the top of the sheet. Applicants have submitted a replacement sheet for Figure 7B labeled appropriately with Figure 7 at the top of the sheet.

IV. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1 and 30-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the recitation of “comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 739” is vague and indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in the interests of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended the claim to recite “the nucleotide sequence.” Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Publication US 2008/0199853

Applicants note two mistakes in the publication of the instant application, US 2008/0199853. First, the sheet containing Figure 5E and 5F is missing. Instead, there are two

sheets containing Figure 6. Second, the preliminary amendment to the specification filed with the application on October 19, 2004 was not incorporated into the publication.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 506612000103. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments